

CLAIMS

1. Neutral electrode for HF surgery, comprising  
at least one electrically conductive section (2), which  
5 can be brought into contact with a section of a  
patient's body, characterized in that the neutral  
electrode (1) comprises circulation-promoting means that  
enhance blood flow at least through the body section  
that is in contact with the section (2).  
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2. Neutral electrode according to Claim 1, characterized in  
that the at least one section (2) is coated with a  
conductive gel to improve the contact between the at  
least one section (2) and the section of the patient's  
15 body.
3. Neutral electrode according to Claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that the circulation-promoting means  
comprise a substance (4) that contains a circulation-  
20 promoting agent.
4. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding  
claims, in particular according to Claim 3,  
characterized in that the at least one section (2) is  
25 coated with the substance (4) that contains the  
circulation-promoting agent.
5. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding  
claims, in particular according to Claim 3 or 4,  
30 characterized in that the gel incorporates the substance  
(4) that contains the circulation-promoting agent.
6. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding  
claims, in particular according to Claim 3 to 5,  
35 characterized in that a carrier material (3) for holding

the conductive section incorporates the substance (4) that contains the circulation-promoting agent.

- 5 7. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the circulation-promoting means comprise elements (2, 2') that supply a stimulus current.
- 10 8. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 7, characterized in that the elements that supply the stimulus current are disposed in such a way that the stimulus current flows between at least two sections (2, 2') within the neutral electrode (1).
- 15 9. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7 or 8, characterized in that the elements that supply the stimulus current comprise separate electrical connector devices (6) for connection to a current source.
- 20 10. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the circulation-promoting means comprise warmable elements (8).
- 25 11. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the circulation-promoting means comprise elements (9) that can be heated by supplying energy directly.
- 30 12. Conductive gel for application of a neutral electrode to a section of a patient's body, containing capsaicin or similar means for promoting circulation.